Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented)   A method of performing a management task, the task modifying information associated with one or more back-end resources in a distributed network, the method comprising:

receiving information from a first back-end resource related to a first task, the first task for a first managed object of a predetermined object type, wherein the first managed object has associated attributes, and wherein each attribute has a data field and a value, and wherein the information received from the first back-end resource indicates whether the first back-end resource is used to perform the management task;

receiving information from a second back-end resource related to a second task, the second task associated with the first managed object, wherein the information received from the second back-end resource indicates whether the second back-end resource is used to perform the management task;

storing in a memory the information received from the second back-end resource in association with the information received from the first back-end resource;

receiving a request to perform the management task in relation to the first managed object;

determining, based on the stored information, which of the first back-end resource and the second back-end resource to call in response to the request; and

sending a task request to the determined resource to perform the management task on the first managed object, wherein the sending occurs after receiving information from the first back-end resource and receiving information from the second back-end resource.

2. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request to display task information related to the first object; and

displaying task information received from both back-end resources in response to the request to display task information.

3. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving static task information related to the object type of the first managed object;

storing the static task information in a task store;

receiving dynamic task information related to the first managed object, the dynamic task information including a task handler identification within the back-end resource; and

in response to the request to display task information, displaying both static and dynamic task information.

4. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 3, wherein the task handler identification is a pointer to executable code on the first back-end resource.

5. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 3, wherein the task handler identification relates to executable code on the first back-end resource and the second back-end resource.

6. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 3, further comprising:

in response to the request to display task information, retrieving the static task information from the task store;

sending a request for dynamic task information to one of the first back-end resource [[or]] and the second back end resource using the handler identification, the request including instance information for the first managed object; and

receiving dynamic task information for the instance of the first managed

object.

7. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

associating a first management task with a second management task; and

storing a script function, wherein the script function is callable and

performs both the first management task and the second management task.

8. - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented)   In a network environment having multiple
resources, a computer storage medium encoding instructions for executing a method, the
method comprising:

receiving information from a first resource related to a first task, the first

task for a first managed object of a predetermined object type, wherein the first

managed object has associated attributes and task information, and wherein each

attribute has a data field and a value, and wherein the information received from

the first resource indicates whether the first resource is used to perform the

management task;

receiving information from a second resource related to a second task, the

second task associated with the first managed object, wherein the information

received from the second resource indicates whether the second resource is used

to perform the management task;

storing in a memory the information received from the second resource in

association with the information received from the first resource;

receiving a request to perform the management task in relation to the first

managed object;

determining, based on the stored information, which of the first and

second resource to call in response to the request; and

sending a task request to the determined resource to perform the management task on the first managed object, wherein the sending occurs after receiving information form the first resource and receiving information from the second resource.

14. -17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended)   A system for task-based management of a plurality of resources comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising computer-program instructions executable by the process for:

identifying a plurality of resources which are in communication with a management module, wherein each of the plurality of resources are configured to provide information corresponding to the management of a plurality of objects associated with each of the resources, wherein each of the plurality of objects has associated attributes having a data field and a value, and wherein at least one of the plurality of objects is a user object that contains information corresponding to a network user, and wherein the management module is capable of receiving a request to access the information related to one or more of the plurality of resources and to receive task information from the plurality of resources related to their associated objects;

wherein in response to receipt of a request to perform a network administration task, the management module performing task functions on the associated objects of more than one resource; and

combining the task functions into a single script function through the use of a scripting manager.

19. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 18, wherein the management module comprises a task manager to receive and store task information, wherein the task

manager is configured to communicate with the <u>plurality of</u> resources to perform the network administration task.

20. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of resources provides information to the task manager in XML format.

21. (Canceled)